

Message Text

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10
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /054 W
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R 110904Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1959
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 22605

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, TH
SUBJ: CPT CLAIMED LOSSES INFLICTED ON RTG, AUG 75 TO JUN 76

REF: FBIS 091908Y, DTG 091908Z AUG 76

1. NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY LISTING OF CLAIMED ROYAL THAI
GOVERNMENT (RTG) CASUALTIES REBROADCAST IN REFTEL FROM VOICE
OF THE PEOPLE OF THAILAND BROADCAST OF AUGUST 5 ARE AT LEAST
PARTIALLY INACCURATE.

2. OUR RECORDS OF RTG CASUALTIES FOR THIS PERIOD INDICATE
327 KILLED, 1002 WOUNDED AND 10 MISSING. EVEN INCLUSION OF
CIVILIAN CASUALTIES OF 165 KILLED, 75 WOUNDED AND 23
ABDUCTED, ONLY PRODUCES TOTAL OF 1602 TOTAL CASUALTIES OF WHICH
1339 ARE RTG FORCES VERSUS CLAIMED 2093.
(COMMENT: OUR FIGURES OF JUNE 1976 ARE NOT COMPLETE AND WILL
RISE SLIGHTLY WITH LATE REPORTING, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO REACH
2093. OUR FIGURES ALSO INCLUDE SMALL NUMBERS OF CASUALTIES IN-
FLICTED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYSIA IN THE FAR SOUTH).

3. OUR RECORDS CANNOT REFUTE/VERIFY THE CLAIMED LOSSES OF
MATERIEL WITHOUT EXTENSIVE RESEARCH AND TABULATION. HOWEVER,
WE ARE ABLE TO MAKE IMMEDIATE COMMENT BASED ON EXPERIENCE OF
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RECENT RTG LOSSES. WE KNOW OF ONLY ONE AIRCRAFT ACTUALLY DOWNED

DURING THIS PERIOD, THE F5A LOST ON JUNE 11, 1976 (BANGKOK 18181, DTG-221200Z JUN 76). NUMEROUS AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN RECEIVING GROUND FIRE FROM SMALL ARMS, PARTICULARLY HELICOPTERS. IF THE CLAIMED 39 DAMAGED MEANS ONLY HIT IN FLIGHT WITHOUT DAMAGE SERIOUS ENOUGH TO ABORT MISSION, THE CLAIM IS OT EXCESSIVE. THE CLAIMS OF CAPTURED MATERIEL ARE ALSO NOT EXCESSIVE AS LARGE AMOUNTS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS IN THE SOUTH, ALONG (BANGKOK 19197, DTG-021240Z JUL 76). THE WRECKED VEHICLES CANNOT BE VERIFIED, BUT CONSIDERING THE USUAL NUMBER OF AMBUSHES, PARTICULARLY OF HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES AND PATROLS, THE CLAIMED 56 WRECKED IS NOT CONSIDERED AN EXAGGERATION.

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